

PROVIDING FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN NAVY PERSONNEL AND FORMER NAVY PERSONNEL FOR PERSONAL PROPERTY LOST OR DAMAGED AS THE RESULT OF A FIRE IN TENT L-76 AT THE AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING BASE, CAMP BRADFORD, NORFOLK, VA., ON MARCH 15, 1943

DECEMBER 17 (legislative day, DECEMBER 15), 1943.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. WALSH of Massachusetts, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 3607]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3607) to provide for reimbursement of certain Navy personnel and former Navy personnel for personal property lost or damaged as the result of a fire in tent L-76 at the amphibious training base, Camp Bradford, Norfolk, Va., on March 15, 1943, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The purpose of the bill is to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Treasury to pay, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$221.34, or such portion thereof as may be necessary, to pay claims of certain Navy personnel and former Navy personnel for personal property lost or damaged as the result of a fire in tent L-76 at the amphibious training base, Camp Bradford, Norfolk, Va., on March 15, 1943.

The investigation conducted reveals that the fire was caused by a spark from the chimney of a coal-burning stove which ignited the roof and set fire to tent L-76. Such stoves were located in this tent and in a number of similar tents located in the same area, and it was not determined from which stove the spark came. Due to the dryness of the materials used in the tent construction, the fire spread rapidly, resulting in considerable damage to the tent and its contents, including bedding and articles of clothing belonging to the personnel housed therein.

There is no other authority of law by virtue of which the claims may be adjusted.

The Navy Department is of the opinion that provision should be made for the payment of these claims, in that the personnel involved were assigned to duty at said station by orders of the Navy Department and the loss of and damage to their property occurred without fault or negligence on their part.

These claims were submitted to the Navy Department Claims Board, which found the value of the property lost and damaged to be \$221.34.

The additional cost to the Government, should this bill be enacted into law, would not exceed \$221.34.

The bill was introduced at the request of the Navy Department and has been cleared by the Bureau of the Budget.

